

Advanced HomeCare Institute of Montana

Nursing Scholarship Program

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About the Scholarships

The Availability of Scholarships

Home Care Services is a Montana, nonprofit corporation which has a charitable purpose "To Advance the Quality of Home Care in the State of Montana." To that end we employ and provide Personal Care Attendants, Nurse Supervisors, and Private Duty Nurses in many Montana communities. These Home Care professionals work to assist Montana's elderly and disabled individuals to live independently in their own homes as long as it is safe and possible to do so.

The Advanced HomeCare Institute is an effort by Home Care Services which recognizes the need to invest in the training and education of workers and students who aspire to professions in this Home Care industry. It also serves to better our Montana communities, especially our rural communities with quality of life care.

The Advanced HomeCare Institute provides basic and advanced training to Personal Care Attendants, to Nurses, to those we serve, and to family caregivers.

The Advanced HomeCare Institute also offers these scholarships to support Montana students who have an interest in Nursing, both LPN and RN, and who have plans to study, live, and work here in Montana. It is our hope that through these scholarships we may encourage and support those who would be a part of Montana's growing and increasingly important Home Health Care industry.

History

The Home Care industry has roots which go back to an earlier century and to an era of visiting Nurses. Services were provided mostly by local charitable and faith based organizations. Over the years the work of these visiting Nurses grew and evolved from an expression of caring and tenderness to skilled Nursing services for elderly, disabled, and other homebound individuals.

Today the Home Health Care industry is challenged by tremendous growth. Today's Nurses coordinate and supervise many community and direct care services. We are also experiencing growth with the advent of the aging 'baby boom' population, more people are living better and longer, and more people are surviving illnesses and injuries. Today we also share a common belief that there is no place like home for these individuals, and that all individuals should be allowed to live and remain in their own homes and communities as long as possible.

Today's Home Health Care industry in Montana emerged in the 1980s. State funded pilot projects found that many individuals could live and remain longer in their own homes if provided with some community support and some regular assistance with daily living.

In 1984, a citizen advisory group appointed by the Governor, called "Priorities for People," set as one of their priorities the expansion of these services statewide. The resulting Home Health Care industry is now a part of every Montana community, but at the heart of this industry is that visiting Nurse and those whose professional services allow us to live and age at home in dignity.

Many of us at the Advanced HomeCare Institute were involved in that process in 1984, and have continued to dedicate ourselves to assuring quality Home Care services are available in all Montana communities, especially rural counties, and to all Montana citizens.

Eligible Communities

The Nursing Scholarship program will ONLY accept Scholarship Applications from residents of the following Eligible Communities. These Eligible Communities are those served by local offices of Home Care Services.

These Eligible Communities include the following Montana Counties, and their local communities:

Gallatin, Park, Sweetgrass, Stillwater, Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Rosebud, Custer, Musselshell and Treasure Counties;

Beaverhead, Madison, Missoula, Ravalli, and Lake Counties;

Valley, Phillips, Daniels, Sheridan, and Roosevelt Counties;

Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Richland, McCone, Garfield, Petroleum, Fallon, Carter, and Powder River Counties;

Home Care Services local offices include: Hamilton, Missoula, Dillon, Bozeman, Billings, Hardin, Lame Deer, Miles City, Glasgow, and Sidney.

INSERT IMAGE "MAP OF NURSING SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES"

Eligible Applicants

These Scholarships are intended to assist Montana students pursuing a Nursing career in the Home Health Care industry, and who plan to study, live, and work in Montana.

An Eligible Applicant must:

Be a Montana resident of an Eligible Community;

Have a cumulative 3.0 GPA or above, from most recent transcript from High School, or a Montana School of higher learning; *

Be attending a Montana school of higher learning which has a Nursing program;

Have plans to live and work in Montana, and to work in the Home Health Care industry;

Complete all application requirements.

* Unless a separate letter is included explaining circumstances for less than a cumulative 3.0 GPA

Applicants may also be requested to provide:

Additional documentation to verify eligibility, at any time prior to the distribution of scholarship awards;

An interview.

***** THIS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS NOT AVAILABLE TO EMPLOYEES, FAMILY MEMBERS OF HCS EMPLOYEES, DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYEES WILL BE PROVIDED THROUGH AN EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PLAN.**

Eligible Institutions

Scholarships will be awarded for attendance at all Montana Institutions of higher learning which provide nursing programs. This includes both public and private institutions.

Scholarship Awards

The Nursing Scholarship Program intends to approve up to ten (10) Scholarship Awards, one (1) in each of the ten (10) service areas of Home Care Services local offices. Each Scholarship award may total up to \$3,000.

Application Instructions

Applying

Application requirements include: **(1)** meeting applicant **eligibility requirements**; **(2)** completion of the **application form**; **(3)** submission of **most recent school transcript**; **(4) three (3) letters of recommendation**; and **(5)** submission of **an essay** expressing the candidate's interest in home health care in Montana, and future plans as a healthcare professional.

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Eligible Applicants

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To be Eligible an Applicant must:

Be a Montana resident of an Eligible Community;

Have a cumulative 3.0 GPA or above, from a most recent transcript from a High School, or a Montana School of higher learning; *

Be attending a Montana school of higher learning which has a Nursing program;

Have plans to live and work in Montana, and to work in the Home Health Care industry.

Complete all application requirements.

*A separate letter may be included explaining extenuating circumstances if GPA is less than 3.0.

Applicants may also be requested to provide:

Additional documentation to verify eligibility, at any time prior to the distribution of scholarship awards;

An interview.

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Eligible Institutions

These scholarships will be awarded only to students attending Montana Institutions of higher learning which provide courses of study in Nursing.

How to Apply

1. **All Application requirements are identified on this website. Most application requirements may be completed online.** It may be easiest to use the post office and mail to submit school transcripts. Applicants may attach word processed documents to emails to submit the essay and recommendation letters. These **submissions can be emailed to scholarships@hcsmontana.org**
2. **Applicants should first complete the online Application Form.** Besides determining basic eligibility, this application form will also advise us of your interest or intent to submit a complete application.
3. Applicants may both request and submit all application requirements in printed format and by regular mail. Both inquiries and submissions should be addressed to: ***Nursing Scholarship Program, Box #877, Bozeman, Montana 59771.***
4. **Complete Applications must be received by March 21, 2011 for consideration.**
5. **Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**

* Our receipt of your **Application Form** will establish an applicant folder for receiving other required submissions. The Applicant will be notified when all application requirements have been received. All application submissions should clearly identify the Applicant's name.

Recipient Selection

1. The Scholarship Committee will review completed applications to determine the most deserving and qualified candidates.
2. Funds are limited. Meeting eligibility requirements does not guarantee that an applicant will receive a financial award.
3. Recipients will be notified of scholarship awards in writing, with the total amount to be awarded, and distribution of the scholarship explained.
4. Scholarship awards may be considered taxable income per IRS regulations. Consultation with a tax advisor to determine a scholarship award's impact is recommended.
5. Announcement of Awards are planned for May 1, 2011.

Award Amounts

The scholarship award amount will be determined by the scholarship committee.

Scholarship Distribution

Awards will be paid directly to the colleges/universities to cover tuition and fees only.

Checklist of Application Documents


All complete applications must include:


- Completed application form
- An essay that answers the following:
 1. Why you choose to pursue a career in nursing and the home health care or rural health care fields?
 2. Why you choose to study and remain in Montana?
 3. Identify strengths you will bring to the health care profession.
 4. What are your career goals in the next 5 years?
 5. What things in life motivate you the most and define your character?
 6. Identify any additional skills/talents that should be considered.
- A copy of an official transcript from most recent school attended.
- Three (3) letters of reference and recommendation

Note: It is likely that you will be able to complete the Application Form, Letters of Recommendation, and Essay online, but will need to mail the copy of your transcript.

Contact Us

Nursing Scholarship Program

 Advanced HomeCare Institute of Montana
PO Box 877
Bozeman, MT 59771

 scholarships@hcsmontana.org

 (406) 582-1680